materials which are occupational health hazards, if not used under controlled conditions.

(b) Although the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of U.S.A. issued orders prohibiting future manufacture etc. of almost all asbestos-containing products, this was struck down by the Court of Appeals in 1991 as EPA failed to convince the Court with needed scientific justification to ban asbestos.

(c) Based on a report by the National Institute for Scientific and Medical Research, the French Government is reported to be considering imposition of a ban on use of the cancer-causing insulation fibre w.e.f. 1.1.1997. However, estimate of 2,000 deaths is reported to have been made assuming that out of all the cases of deaths caused by lung cancer, 5.7% are asbestos related cases.

(d) and (e) Use of Blue (Crocidolite) fibre which is considered as toxic and a health hazard has already been banned by the Government. There is no need of banning asbestos as India is using only Waite (Chrysotile) asbestos which contains only about 8-9% of white asbestos fibre and is, therefore, safe in use. A Technical Committee which was constituted in 1994 to undertake a comprehensive study of use of asbestos had recommended use of white fibre under controlled conditions and conforming to all standards prescribed by the Bureau of Indian Standards. This is insisted upon in the production of asbestos products.

import of Agricultural inputs

2236. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether agriculture inpute/latest technology or knowhow are allowed to be imported by exporting agricultural produce;

(b) if not, the restrictions imposed on import of the above;

(c) whether these restrictions would be done away with by Government; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (d) Capital goods including those required for the agricultural sector, is permitted to be imported on payment of concessional duty @ 15% of c.i.f. value of imported goods or zero duty if the c.i.f. value of capital goods is Rs. 20 crores or more, subject to export of the agricultural product manufactured by the capital goods so imported at the prescribed rate of export obligation, under the Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme.

Similarly, agricultural inputs for the exports of agricultural products can also be imported without payment of the Customs duty under the Duty Exemption Scheme (DES) against prescribed export obligation.

सुपर बाजार की प्रचालन लागत

2237. **श्री कनक सिंह मोहन सिंह मंगरोला:** क्या **नागरिक आपूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या पिछले कुछ वर्षों से सुपर बाजार की प्रचालन लागत में लगातार वृद्धि हो रही है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो वर्ष 1989-90 से ऐसी वृद्धि का मद-वार, वर्ष-वार और शाखा-वार ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो इसके कया कारण हैं?

खाद्य मंत्री और नागरिक पूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री (श्री देवेन्द्र प्रसाद यादव): (क) से (ग) सुपर बाजार दिली द्वारा भेजी गई सूचना के अनुसार, सुपर बाजार की संचलानात्मक लागत में निरन्तर वृद्धि होती रही है। इस

संबंध में वर्षवार ब्यौरा इस प्रकार है:—

वर्ष	(लाख रुपए में)
1989-90	770.71
1990-91	791.06
1991-92	911.54
1992-93	959.16
1993-94	1093.45
1994-95	1289.62

सुपर बाजार ने सूचित किया है कि उनकी मौजूदा लेखा प्रणाली में मदवार तथा शाखावार संचलात्मक लागत निकालने की व्यवस्था नहीं है।

Performance of the Industrial Sector

2238. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Industrial Sector has performed well during 1994-95 as compared to 1993-94;

(b) if so, growth rate achieved during these two years;

(c) whether Industrial Sector is likely to achieve still higher growth rate during 1995-96; and

(d) if so, details thereof and factors responsible for stimulating industrial growth during 1995-96?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. According to Index of Industrial Production, the overall rate of growth of industrial production stood at 6.0 percent, 9.4 percent and 12.0 percent during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 respectively.

(d) This increase in the rate of industrial growth is due to a number of factors such as cumulative effect of reform in the industrial and other sectors, continuing buoyancy in the growth of exports and increased demand for industrial products due to increased incomes.

Production of Coffee

2239. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed and achievement made in the production of coffee during 8th Plan;

(b) whether Government propose to increase the production of coffee during 9th Plan;

(c) if so, the suggestions of Coffee Board in this regard;

(d) the review made on production of coffee in the coffee growing States; and

(e) the steps taken to increase coffee production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULL RAMAIAH): (a) The targets and achievements in the production of coffee during the 8th Plan period is as under:—

(in tonnes)

Year	Production Target	Actual Production	Achievement (%)
1992-93	185500	169395	91.32
1993-94	191000	208000	108.90
1994-95	210000	180100	85.76
1995-96	225000	223000	99.11
1996-97	242000	—	—

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The 9th Plan is still under finalization. The Coffee Board, however, has tentatively suggested the production target for the terminal year of 9th Plan (2002) at 3,00,000 tonnes and has proposed a number of measures including intensive cultivation programme, replanting programme, water augmentation programme etc. to increase production during the 9th Plan period.

(d) Review shows that three important coffee growing states of Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu have all increased